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BOROUGH OF JARROW.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

School Medical Services

BY

BRENDAN BUCKLEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

For the Year 1941.

JARROW-ON-TYNE :

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STAFF OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.



School Medical Officer.

B. BUCKLEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

T. C. Healy, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., Temporary to 8/2/41.

K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., Part-time temporary 10/2/41—
1/8/41.

F. F. Tietze, M.D. (Vienna). Temporary 1/8/41.

Specialist for Operative Treatment of Tonsils & Adenoids (part-time).

Francis McGuckin, M.D., B.S., *U.Durh.*, F.R.C.S., *U.Edin.*

School Dentist (part-time).

George G. Clarke, L.D.S., *U.Durh.*

School Nurses.

Mrs. Waldie, State Registered Nurse, Registered Fever Nurse.

Miss M. Graham, State Registered Nurse.

Clerks (part-time).

Miss I. Besford.

Miss N. Boyle, to November 17th, 1941.

Miss J. Dick, commenced December 15th, 1941.



TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY, BOROUGH OF JARROW-ON-TYNE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It affords me pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for the year 1941.

The report is much curtailed as a measure of economy, but it preserves the main statistical tables and remarks for record purposes.

The principal features of the School Medical year were the evacuation of a further 114 children, the immunisation against diphtheria of 2,073 children and an increase in the incidence of scabies.

At the close of the year, the establishment of a Child Guidance Clinic was under consideration by the Education Committee.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the work of my staff during the year.

B. BUCKLEY,
School Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

1. CO-ORDINATION.

Co-ordination with the other branches of the Medical Services continued throughout the year as outlined in previous annual reports. The School Clinic in addition to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic continued during the year in the temporary premises at Acca House.

The Nursery School has not yet been opened as such and is at present being used as an infants' school.

2. SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The standard of lighting, heating and ventilation in most of the elementary schools in the borough is generally satisfactory. In some instances the black-out fixtures have reduced ventilation. The sanitary accommodation in the Croft Terrace, Central and Grange Schools is obsolete and most unsatisfactory, and requires immediate attention. The loss of a further school during the year by enemy action has added to the difficulties of providing accommodation for all the scholars on the register. Communal Feeding Centres were opened during the year in the Monkton Road and Grange Schools. At Bede Burn Council School an extension was made in order to provide a cleansing centre for the first aid post. At the termination of hostilities, this will be adapted for school purposes. During the year the infant scholars who at the end of 1940, were receiving education on the home centre system were placed in school again. A new school on the Simonside housing estate would be a welcome amenity to the district.

The following table shows the average number of children on the register for each school during the financial year ended March 31st, 1941.

School	Average No. on Registers
Central	313
Grange—Boys	152
Girls and Infants	224
Dunn Street—Boys	143
Girls	126
Infants	50
Croft Terrace—Mixed	423
Infants	130
Bede Burn	214
Monkton Co.—Mixed	318
Infants	136
East Jarrow	58
Ellison—Mixed	211
Infants	90
St. Bede's—Central Girls	106
Senior Boys	236
Senior Girls	184
Junior Boys	330
Junior Girls	245
Monkton Road Infants	130
Grant Street Infants	113
St. Bede's Infants at Monkton Co.	182
TOTAL	4230

The average number of children on the school registers has, with the exception of 1937, shewn a progressive annual diminution since 1927 when the total was at 7,692.

Evacuation.

In July, 1941, a further 114 school children were evacuated from the Borough, the reception areas being the Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts. They were accompanied on their journey by both the School Nurses. The number of school children who remained in evacuation areas on December 31st, 1941, was 217. Each child was subjected to medical examination before evacuation.

3. MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Medical inspection of the usual age groups, entrants, intermediates and leavers was conducted during the year, and it was found possible to complete the inspection of each group.

Number of Children Examined in 1941.

(1) Routine Inspections.

Entrants (5—6 years)	357
Intermediates (8—9 years)	294
Leavers (12—13 years)	262
	<hr/>
	913
	<hr/>

(2) Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections 4095

(This number includes the examination of children referred to the Clinic by parents, teachers, health visitors, etc.)

4. FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(a) The total number of school children who were medically inspected by routine was 913. As is customary, a record was made at the time of inspection of their nutritional condition, and the following is the summary:—

No. Children Examined.	A. Excellent.		B. Normal.		C. Slightly Subnormal.		D. Bad.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
913	160	17.52	489	53.56	216	23.66	48	5.26

Economic conditions, owing to the amount of war work available and the generally good level of wages attached thereto, were improved compared with those existing during the previous year. These better conditions were reflected in the attire and cleanliness of the school children. Footwear, in many instances, leaves something to be desired. Owing to the high cost of good quality footwear, inferior boots and shoes are purchased by the poorer parents. The effective life of these is short and then the purchase of replacements is often made difficult, if not impossible, owing to the shortage of clothing coupons. Food rationing seems to have had no appreciable adverse effect on the health of the school children—in fact, an all round average increase in weight may be noted in the height and weight tables. The mental state of school children does not appear to have been directly affected by war conditions, either

(b) **Uncleanliness.**—The school nurses examined 7,262 children during the year in their routine inspections for uncleanliness, 560 children were found to be affected with vermin or nits, or to be otherwise unclean, which represents 6.33% of the total examined. This compares favourably with the percentage of 11.29 for 1940.

(c) Skin Diseases.—Scabies continued to be prevalent during the year, in spite of every effort to counteract it. 235 cases were reported as against 140 in 1940. It remained impossible during the year to obtain hospital treatment for the serious cases, which proved to be a serious handicap in combatting the infection. The powers of compulsory cleansing given by Ministry of Health Circular 2517 should certainly be an immense help in preventing further spread. For this purpose it has been decided to utilise the new cleansing centre attached to the Bede Burn Council School.

Impetigo occurred frequently, often in association with scabies. Ringworm continued to be of rare occurrence. 4 cases of ringworm of the body and none of the scalp were inspected at the clinic.

(d) Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases.—One hundred and twenty cases were noted during the year. Twenty-five children were submitted for refraction, of whom fifteen were found to require spectacles. Thirteen children received spectacles at the clinic during the year.

(e) Nose and Throat Defects.—During 1941, sixty-five children received operative treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids at the Palmer Memorial Hospital, under the Authority's Scheme. Sessions were held as required and not at regular intervals.

(f) Ear Diseases and Defective Hearing.—Forty-nine defects of this nature were noted at medical inspections, otitis media and accumulated wax being the main conditions responsible.

(g) Dental Defects.—In the course of his routine and special inspections, the School Dentist inspected 1,964 children and of these 1,630 or 82.99% were found to require treatment.

In all, one hundred and eighty-one sessions were devoted to dental work of which, thirteen were given to routine examinations in schools, one hundred and fifty-eight to conservative work and ten to extractions under general anaesthesia. A total of 198 general anaesthetics was administered to school children at the clinic.

(h) Heart Disease and Rheumatism. No cases of organic heart disease were diagnosed at medical inspections during the year.

(i) Tuberculosis.—Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one of glandular tuberculosis were discovered during the year.

The District Tuberculosis Officer advised in all cases regarding their fitness for school.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The diphtheria epidemic which had broken out in the later part of 1940 continued into the spring of 1941. The immunisation scheme inaugurated in 1940 was carried on with success so that the number of school children who had received a complete course of immunisation at the school clinic, by the end of the year was 2,073 or 49.04% of the total on the registers. In addition, many children were immunised privately and others who travel from outside the area have previously been protected.

The reagents used were A.P.T. and T.A.F. There were some exclusions on account of whooping cough. Exclusions due to other infectious diseases were trivial.

It was not necessary to resort to school closure during the year. The following table gives the number of children excluded and the distribution throughout the schools of the common infectious diseases:—

School.	Measles.	Mumps.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox.	Scabies.	Influenza.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	TOTAL.	Percentage of Average on Register.
St. Bede's Infants	7	..	28	..	1	..	36	8.41%
„ Jun. Boys	1	30	2	2	..	35	10.6%
„ „ Girls ...	1	..	1	..	30	..	..	..	32	13.06%
„ Sen. Boys	1	..	12	..	..	..	13	5.5%
„ „ Girls	17	1	2	..	20	10.86%
„ Central	1	1	1	..	3	2.58%
Grange Girls & Infants.	3	..	11	..	7	..	21	9.37%
„ Boys	1	22	..	4	1	28	18.42%
Dunn Street Infants..	5	..	4	..	..	..	9	18.00%
„ Boys	1	1	18	..	..	..	20	13.58%
„ Girls ...	1	2	1	..	12	..	..	..	16	12.69%
Ellison Infants	3	..	1	..	4	4.44%
„ Mixed	14	1	2	..	17	8.05%
Croft Terrace Infants	2	..	5	..	..	..	7	5.38%
„ Mixed	5	..	11	3	19	4.72%
Monkton Co. Infants	1	..	11	..	..	..	12	8.82%
Monkton Co. Mixed.	..	1	..	..	10	1	13	1	26	8.14%
St. Peter's Mixed	2	1	1	..	4	..	11	24.52%
Bede Burn Council	3	..	3	1.4%
East Jarrow	1	..	..	..	1	3.57%
Central
Totals	2	3	24	4	235	6	51	5	333	

Exclusions from School.—The following table gives the number of exclusions made by the School Medical Officer during 1941, classified

according to defect. The total number of exclusions in 1940 was 1,313.

Diphtheria	1
Eye Diseases	30
Ear Diseases	46
Impetigo	188
Influenza	6
Measles	2
Parotitis	3
Whooping Cough	25
Ringworm	4
Scabies	853
Scarlet Fever	—
Skin Diseases	85
Tonsil and Adenoid Operations	65
Tuberculosis	10
Varicella	5
Verruinous	17
Miscellaneous	481
Total	1,821

6. EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

There are 2 children suffering from multiple defects as follows:—

One—Mental Defect and Blindness.

One—Mental Defect and Crippling.

They are not at any school or institution.

7. FOLLOWING UP.

Special registers are kept containing the names of children requiring treatment for defective vision, enlarged tonsils and adenoids and dental caries. Those requiring special treatment are followed up systematically by notices to parents, visits to schools and to the homes.

During the year, the school nurses paid 78 home visits. Where the efforts of the school nurse prove fruitless, the case is usually referred to the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The thanks of the school medical service are gratefully recorded to the Society's Inspector who dealt with five cases of uncleanness during the year.

8. ARTIFICIAL LIGHT TREATMENT.

The work of the clinic continued during the year as outlined in previous reports.

Sixty-two sessions were held during the year and the number of attendances of school children was 331. Sessions were suspended in the early part of the year to allow diphtheria immunisation to proceed.

Thanks are expressed to the West Line Committee of the Tyneside Council of Social Service for its continued interest in the work of the clinic.

School Clinic.—The temporary premises at Acca House continued to be used during the year. Here are the main statistics:—

Number of Attendances	4,546
Number of Treatments	1,051
Special Inspections and Re-inspections	4,095

School Nurses.—The school nurses devoted 65 sessions to routine medical examinations, 44 to cleansing inspections, and 13 to routine dental inspections.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.—During the year the following numbers of children were examined and found fit for employment in the occupations stated:—

Errand Boys and Girls	3
Delivering Newspapers	11
Collecting Money	—

No street trader's licence was issued.

Co-operation of Parents.—Of the 913 children examined at the routine medical inspections, parents or guardians were present for the examination with 559 of the children.

Co-operation of Teachers.—The teachers continued to give their usual valuable assistance to the School Medical Staff. This is much appreciated especially now when the teachers have so many extra responsibilities.

Co-operation of School Attendance Officers.—The co-operation of the School Attendance Officers continued as in previous years. Their willing and generous assistance cannot pass without acknowledgment.

Vaccination.—375 or 41.07% of the 913 children examined at routine medical inspections were found to have been vaccinated. This is the lowest percentage noted since 1927 when particulars of those vaccinated were first kept.

School Meals.—There was a decrease in the number of children supplied with school dinners during the year, the number supplied being 181 against 206 in 1940. The total number of dinners provided was 11,531 compared with 14,115 during the previous year.

There was also a decrease in the number of children in receipt of free milk during the year. During 1940, 719 children received 100,687 one-third pints of free milk. These numbers fell during the year so that 349 children received 72,044 one-third pints.

To some extent the lessened numbers are due to reduced unemployment in the borough as wage-earning parents prefer their children to have their meals at home. Difficulties in the distribution of milk is another factor.

The following table shews the number of individual children and the meals supplied during the past five years:—

Year.	No. of Children.	Dinners.
1936	265	62,645
1937	345	64,709
1938	1,364	90,985
1939	1,520	166,718
1940	206	14,115
1941	181	11,531

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT—BOYS.

SCHOOL.	(Central.	(Trange.	Dunn Street.	Croft Terrace.	Bede Burn.	Ellison.	St. Peter's.	St. Bede's.	St. Bede's, Grant Street.	Monkton Council.	East Jarrow.	Total No. Examined.	Average for 1941.	Average for Jarrow children 1910—1914.	Average for England & Wales (Greenwood Table).
Entrants.															
(No. examined.	...	28	11	21	2	12	9	40	37	11	4	175	...	...	...
Height—inches.	...	44.28	43.42	41.55	43.25	42.00	41.62	43.01	41.76	42.71	44.75		42.83	...	...
Weight—lbs.	...	47.12	45.08	48.75	49.75	42.91	43.25	47.51	44.32	45.5	51.75		46.59	...	...
Intermediates.															
(No. examined.	...	15	12	13	12	10	2	60	...	11	1	136	...	...	...
Height—inches.	...	46.71	47.42	47.92	47.96	50.2	47.75	48.11	...	48.18	44.5		47.08	46.78	47.39
Weight—lbs.	...	60.00	58.92	58.46	60.16	64.1	55.25	61.16	...	59.63	52.00		58.85	49.57	52.00
Leavers.															
(No. examined.	15	19	9	20	1	14	4	82	...	...	1	65	...	...	...
Height—inches.	55.82	51.14	57.1	57.2	51.5	58.78	54.00	55.6	...	...	53.00		54.90	54.16	54.88
Weight—lbs.	91.71	72.51	89.8	96.7	71.00	86.78	82.66	83.79	...	...	57.5		81.94	65.72	72.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT—GIRLS.

School.	Central.	Grange.	Dunn Street.	Croft Terrace.	Bede Burn.	Ellison.	St. Peter's.	St. Bede's Grant Street.	St. Bede's.	St. Bede's (Central.	Monkton Council.	East Jarrow.	Total No. Examined.	Average for 1941.	Average for Jarrow children 1910—1914.	Average for England & Wales (Greenwood Table).	
Entrants.																	
No. examined.	...	20	8	24	17	10	3	39	37	...	17	7	182	...	...	...	...
Height—inches.	...	42.85	43.5	41.5	42.21	41.35	42.00	41.63	42.42	...	42.66	42.21	...	42.23	...	...	...
Weight—lbs.	...	45.9	44.25	44.12	45.08	35.33	45.5	42.79	45.67	...	45.66	45.03	...	44.02	...	...	...
Intermediates.																	
No. examined.	...	11	4	14	12	6	1	...	79	...	30	1	158	...	...	...	...
Height—inches.	...	47.35	48.00	49.96	46.75	52.16	52.00	...	49.45	...	47.85	45.00	...	48.72	45.39	46.04	46.04
Weight—lbs.	...	58.7	56.37	66.78	59.83	65.00	60.00	...	60.54	...	58.34	51.00	...	60.61	47.69	49.55	49.55
Leavers.																	
No. examined.	16	8	11	15	...	11	3	...	22	7	...	4	97	...	...	...	...
Height—inches.	57.00	62.37	54.74	58.12	...	55.05	54.43	...	55.02	56.96	...	57.5	...	56.79	54.63	55.4	55.4
Weight—lbs.	96.62	88.69	86.16	89.53	...	84.58	77.87	...	88.09	96.28	...	90.00	...	87.53	70.88	73.81	73.81

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE I.
MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections, 1941.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	357
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	294
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	262
Total	...	...	...	...	913

Number of other Routine Inspections ... None.

Grand Total ... 913

B.—Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections & Re-Inspections ... 4,095

TABLE II.
Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year
in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
913	160	17.52	489	53.56	216	23.66	48	5.26

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year
under the Authority's Scheme 1,051

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

	No. of Defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Errors of Refraction (including squint). ...	25	2	27
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—	—	—
Total	25	2	27

No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
(a) Prescribed	15	2	17
(b) Obtained	13	2	15

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Number of Defects			
Received Operative Treatment.			
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
65	—	65	65

TABLE IV.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist.

(a) Routine age groups

AGE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	TOTAL.
Number	205	236	73	45	40	61	87	35	4	—	786
(b) Specials			...		...	...		...		..	1178
(c) TOTALS (Routine and Specials)								...		...	1964

(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	1630
(3) Number actually treated	...	...	1207
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	1238
(5) Half-days devoted to :—			
Inspection	...	13	} Total 181
Treatment	...	168	
(6) Fillings :—			
Permanent teeth	...	88	} Total 88
Temporary teeth	...	Nil.	
(7) Extractions :—			
Permanent teeth	...	374	} Total 2160
Temporary teeth	...	1786	
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	...	...	198
(9) Other operations :—			
Permanent teeth	...	Nil.	} Total Nil.
Temporary teeth	...	Nil.	

TABLE V.

Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.81
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,262
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	...	...	...	...	560
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	524
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—							
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.



